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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/634,779

08/06/2003

Tetsuya Otosaka

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MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD
SUITE 200
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817

EXAMINER

IVEY, ELIZABETH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1775

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/634,779	Applicant(s) OTOSAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Elizabeth Ivey	Art Unit 1775	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10,20-28,30 and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10,20-28,30 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 31 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 31 should include viscosity units. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1-10, 20-28, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 20 and 31 claim articles by the characteristics of a different article. Claims 1 and 20 specifically contain the phrase “perform comprising: an inside portion disposed at an inner side in the radial direction of a position corresponding to two times the mode field diameter on which the light at a wavelength of about 1385nm propagates through an optical fiber made by drawing the perform”. It is not clear whether the applicant is claiming that the perform has the characteristics of the propagation of light or if this is a characteristic found in the fiber made from the preform. Claim 30 contains similar verbiage.

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Claim 27 recites the limitation "said at least one layer" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 25-27, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,067,793 to Bachmann et al.

Regarding Claims 1-4, 6-9, 20-27 and 31, Bachmann discloses a solid preform for drawing an optical fiber having a core, which is doped with Ge and a multiple number of claddings. Bachmann discloses an outer tube of quartz glass manufactured from quartz crystals, a first layer (inside the tube) of synthetic quartz glass (column 3 lines 12-30). The viscosities and radial viscosity distributions are properties inherent to the materials. These materials are consistent with the material taught by applicant and are expected to possess similar characteristics. A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. *MPEP 2112.02*. Because the prior art exemplifies the applicant's claimed composition in relation to the quartz glass, the claimed physical property relating to the viscosity is inherently present in the prior art.

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Absent an objective evidentiary showing to the contrary, the addition of the claimed physical property to the claim language fails to provide patentable distinction over the prior art.

Regarding claim 10, claim 10 is a product by process claim wherein the patentability of the product does not depend on its method of production. "If the product in the product by process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *See MPEP 2113*. Absent an evidentiary showing of criticality resulting in unexpected results between the claimed invention and the prior art. As such, the process limitation within claim 10 does not provide patentable distinction over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 5, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,067,793 to Bachmann et al.

Regarding claim 5, Bachmann discloses an optical fiber preform wherein a quartz inner clad layer is doped with at least one of the dopants consisting essentially of chlorine, germanium, fluorine or phosphorous. Bachmann specifically mentions germanium and fluorine (column 3 lines 19-29). Bachmann does not specifically disclose the doped layers to be a synthetic quartz glass, however, since Bachman discloses layer 4 as a synthetic quartz glass it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use synthetic quartz for all of the quartz glass layers.

Regarding claim 28, Bachmann discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2 and although Bachmann does not expressly disclose the diameter of the inner clad layer as less than 80% of an outer diameter of the perform, Bachmann discloses $R_4 > R_3 > R_2 > R_1 > R_c$ subsequently resulting in $D_4 > D_3 > D_2 > D_1 > D_c$. Therefore it would have it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adjust the percentage relationship in diameters for the intended application, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value

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of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205.

Regarding claim 30, Bachmann discloses a solid preform for drawing an optical fiber as indicated in claim 1, having a core, which is doped with Ge and a multiple number of claddings including at least an inner clad layer and at least an outer clad layer. Bachmann discloses an outer tube of quartz glass manufactured from quartz crystals, a first layer (inside the tube) of synthetic quartz glass (column 3 lines 12-30). The viscosities and radial viscosity distributions are properties inherent to the materials. A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. *MPEP 2112.02*. Because the prior art exemplifies the applicant's claimed composition in relation to the quartz glass, the claimed physical property relating to the viscosity is inherently present in the prior art. Absent an objective evidentiary showing to the contrary, the addition of the claimed physical property to the claim language fails to provide patentable distinction over the prior art. Although Bachmann does not expressly disclose the diameter of the inner clad layer as less than 80% of an outer diameter of the perform, Bachmann discloses $R_4 > R_3 > R_2 > R_1 > R_c$ subsequently resulting in $D_4 > D_3 > D_2 > D_1 > D_c$. Therefore it would have it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adjust the percentage relationship in diameters for the intended application, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,067,793 to Bachmann in view of U.S. Patent Re. 30,883 to Rau et al. Bachmann discloses an optical fiber preform wherein a quartz inner clad layer is doped with at least one of the dopants consisting essentially of chlorine, germanium, fluorine or phosphorous. Bachmann specifically mentions germanium and fluorine (column 3 lines 19-29). Bachmann does not specifically disclose the doped layers to be a synthetic quartz glass, however, since Bachman discloses layer 4 as a synthetic quartz glass it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use synthetic quartz for all of the quartz glass layers.

Alternatively, Rau discloses the use of a covering of doped synthetic quartz glass on a core to obtain a foreproduct, or preform, in the manufacture of light conducting fibers (optical fibers) (column 2 lines 39-43) and suggests it is particularly useful for the manufacture of fibers whose core consists of quartz glass of high purity to provide a jacket of lower refractive index over a core (column 3 lines 35-37). Bachmann teaches the importance of having minimal dispersion and low losses and describes use of dopants to obtain "the ultimate preform" with specifically varied refractive index layers (column 3 lines 30 – 36). Because Rau teaches a synthetic quartz glass whose index of refraction can be varied in a prescribed manner with the use of dopants (column 2 lines 11-32), it would be obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the synthetic doped quartz glass of Rau as the doped quartz of Bachmann to provide a jacket of lower refractive index over a core.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 5, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the U.S.C 112 second paragraph rejection, the two cladding layers and compositions thereof appear to be a critical feature to achieve viscosity distributions and transmission losses as claimed. As indicated above, it is not clear whether the applicant is claiming that the perform has the characteristics of the propagation of light or if this is a characteristic found in the fiber made from the preform.

Regarding Bachmann, Bachmann teaches materials identical or substantially similar to the claimed invention. Applicant has offered no plausible argument or evidence that the article of Bachmann cannot have the claimed characteristics. The materials disclosed are identical to the claimed materials. Why are the viscosities not inherent?

Regarding the combination of Rau with Bachmann, as indicated above, Rau discloses the use of a covering of doped synthetic quartz glass on a core to obtain a foreproduct, or preform, in the manufacture of light conducting fibers (optical fibers) (column 2 lines 39-43) and suggests it is particularly useful for the manufacture of fibers whose core consists of quartz glass of high purity to provide a jacket of lower refractive index over a core (column 3 lines 35-37). Bachmann teaches the importance of having minimal dispersion and low losses and describes use of dopants to obtain "the ultimate preform" with specifically varied refractive index layers

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(column 3 lines 30 – 36). Because Rau teaches a synthetic quartz glass whose index of refraction can be varied in a prescribed manner with the use of dopants (column 2 lines 11-32), it would be obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the synthetic doped quartz glass of Rau as the doped quartz of Bachmann to provide a jacket of lower refractive index over a core as in Rau.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

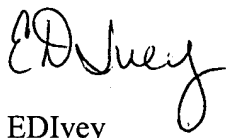
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth Ivey whose telephone number is (571) 272-8432. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00- 4:30 M-Th and 7:00-3:30 alt. Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on (571) 272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


EDIvey


JENNIFER MCNEIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
12/21/06